

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. The pending claims are subject to the Restriction/Election Requirements imposed in the Office Action mailed June 28, 2006.

Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and Election of Species

i) Election

The Office Action has required restriction to one of the following groups: Group I (claims 1-13), Group II (claims 14-17), and Group III (claim 18-20). This restriction requirement acknowledges that the subject matter of Groups I, II, and III constitute separately patentable inventions. MPEP § 806.04(h).

In response, Applicants elect the invention of Group I.

Applicants hereby elect the following species for examination:

The thermosetting adhesive composition described in Example 2, comprising 55% by weight of a polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant, relative to the combined weight of accelerant and protein-based component. See page 18, Table 1, 1st entry. As described in Example 2, the accelerant is a cationic polyazetidinium resin, in the form of an aqueous suspension in water at 25% solids content. The protein-based component is modified soy flour, added as an aqueous suspension having a protein-based component content of 20% by weight.

It is believed that claims 1-9 and 11-13 of Group I read on this elected species.

ii) Rejoinder of Claims 14-20 (M.P.E.P. § 821.04)

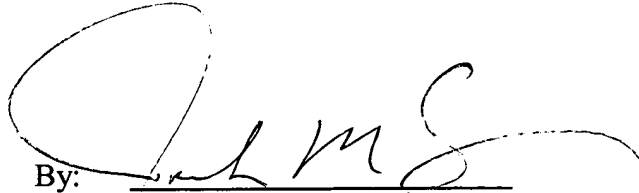
Claims 14-20, by virtue of their dependency on the elected claims, are of the same scope and therefore comply with the requirements under M.P.E.P. § 821.04(a) and (b) for rejoinder. Upon a finding that the elected claims 1-13 of Group I are allowable, the non-elected claims must be rejoined. See M.P.E.P. § 821.04(a) and (b).

Applicants therefore respectfully request, upon a finding that the elected claims 1-13 of Group I are allowable, (1) withdrawal of requirement for restriction between Groups I, II, and III, and (2) rejoinder of non-elected claims 14-20.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMS', is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph M. Skerpon
Registration No. 29,864

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, NW, 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20001-4597
202-824-3000